

The Persevering Guesser.
"It is amazing what perseverance will achieve," said an Englishman. "Even misdirected perseverance has achieved marvels. There is the case of Robson, the great Nottingham cricketer. Robson during his Australian tour was determined one morning to do the hard work of fielding. Well, when the Australian captain upon the field Robson shouted, 'Woman!' Then, seeing that heads lay uppermost, instead of acknowledging defeat Robson said, with perseverance and nonchalance: 'Well, we'll go in.'"

"But—er—I thought," said the puzzled Australian, "you see, I don't quite know the English meaning of 'woman.'"

"Then," said Robson gallantly, "we'll toss again."

"The Australian made a second toss. Robson called heads, and tails came up. The ordinary man would at this point have surrendered in despair, but not so Robson.

"Honors are now easy," said he with a pleasant smile. "On with the rubber."

"The Australian a third time flipped the coin, and, having at last called the toss correctly, the persevering Robson led in his side to the shady benches."

An Unofficial Order.
Thomas, tenth Earl of Dundonald, at his death vice admiral in the English navy, tells in his "Autobiography of a Seaman" of an incident on board the Hind, on which he served as midshipman. The pet of the ship was a parrot, the aversion of the boatswain, while the bird learned to imitate exactly.

"One day a party of ladies paid us a visit aboard. By the usual means of a 'whip' on the yardarm several had been hoisted on deck. The chain had descended for another. Scarcely had its fair freight been lifted out of the boat alongside when the parrot piped. 'Let go!'

"The order was instantly obeyed, and the unfortunate lady, instead of being comfortably seated on deck, was soured in the sea. Luckily for her, the men were on the watch and quickly pulled her out, and luckily for the parrot, the boatswain was on shore or this unseasonable assumption of the boatswain's functions might have ended tragically for the bird."

How Prisoners Converse.
A man who was sent to jail recently for three days for a small offense was greatly impressed with the precautions taken to prevent the prisoners engaging in conversation. There seemed to be warders everywhere, and no one was allowed to utter a word.

On the Sunday he was in the church the psalm given was the "Old Hundred." Besides him were two old jailbirds. Instead of the orthodox words beginning "All people that on earth do dwell," this pair sang a hymn of their own in conversational style, which went something as follows: First convict sings:

"How long are you in for? I am doing sixty days. I nearly broke a copper's jaw. Sing low or else they'll maybe hear."

Second convict replies:
"You are a lucky pig-can. I've got two-five months to serve. Tried to break into a house. Sincerely must have given me away." By this method they exchanged histories during the singing—Glasgow News.

Too Humiliating.
A certain small boy of six is rapidly assuming many ways. Not long ago his "room" at school planned an entertainment. There were to be little songs and recitations and a mysterious grab bag. The small boy waxed eloquent concerning the coming of the show, and more especially the part he would take.

On the morning of the entertainment his mother suggested that he should take his little sister, aged four, with him. He hung his head.
"Don't you want to take her?" his mother asked.
"No, I don't," he answered.
"And why not?"
The reply came quickly.
"Cause there ain't none of th' other fellows has to bring their children!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

No Acid Needed.
Weary William Rhoades—Say, Harry, wot's de difference between us an' all th' other fellers?"

Happy Harry—Search me.
Weary William Rhoades—Dey don't have ter put no acid in us ter keep us from workin'."

At which the dry lay in the now burst into a furious flame.—Exchange.

Getting His Straight.
"I wouldn't make a confidante of May," said the conceited fellow, with a self-satisfied smirk. "She told me you said you were crazy to marry me. Of course she's no friend of mine."

"No," interrupted Miss Wise, "and she's not even a good reporter. I didn't say I was, but 'would be.'—Catholic Standard and Times.

Noisiness.
Wife—Would it please you, dear, if I learned another language? Husband—Yes, it would delight me infinitely. Wife—Well, which one shall I study? Husband—The sign language.—Smart Set.

A Woman's Secret.
Biggs—There goes a woman with a past. Boggs—Yes, and there are about twenty years more of it than she is willing to own up to.—New York Journal.

Great is the fact that our interests gradually take a wider scope, allowing more scope for the healing power of compensation.—Dinah Mulock Craik.

Gave the Snap Away.
The Domine—How is it, my young friend, that your mother always does the carving when you have company to dinner? Freddie—Cause dey always says things while he's doing it.—Puck.

A Nice Distinction.
Mrs. Farmer—And you say that the last man you worked for was St. Higgins? Rambling Restless—No, ma'am, I said dat he wuz de last man dat employed me.—Chicago News.

FREE PILE CURE

An Eccentric Doctor.
Dr. Zaharin was one of the most famous as he was also the most eccentric of physicians in Russia. Even when he was summoned to attend Czar Alexander III. in his last illness Dr. Zaharin required the same preparation for his visit to the palace as to any of his patients' homes—that is to say, all dogs had to be kept out of the way, all clocks stopped and every door thrown wide open. Following a process of gradual undressing, he left his furs in the hall, his overcoat in the next room, his gloves in the third and, continuing, arrived at the bedside in ordinary indoor costume. This was only one phase of Dr. Zaharin's golden theory that "you should take a rest before you are tired." Accordingly he sat down after walking every few yards and every eight steps in going upstairs. From the patient's relatives and every one else in the house he required absolute silence until he spoke to them, when his questions had to be answered by "Yes" or "No" and nothing more. To the actual patient, however, he was courteous and consideration in the highest degree.

They Had Will Power.
I was sitting one morning in a quiet corner at Monte Carlo when two elderly men sat down beside me. One was evidently a Scotchman and the other I gathered was from Yorkshire. The former remarked, "I have just managed it." This, I discovered, meant a win of 20 francs. Their daily routine was to appear at the same roulette table at an early hour and play the lowest stake of 5 francs on even chances—that is, on black or red or on the odd or even numbers. They would lose and win and win and lose, but they remained calm and self-contained and persevered until they had each 20 francs to the good. I observed them daily. Some mornings they scooped in the amount in twenty minutes, and at other times it was a tough struggle until luncheon time before they managed it. I never saw them fail once, and I learned that they had pursued the same plan for four months. One thing was clear—nothing could tempt them to go beyond the modest stake, and they had the will to stop when they won the stipulated amount. It was really one of the best illustrations of will power I have ever seen, for few, indeed, who enter the portals of the casino are able to resist the compelling atmosphere of the tables to play on if losing and to plunge if winning.—Chambers' Journal.

Family Jars.
Schoolmaster (to his wife) My dear, I wish you would speak more carefully. You say that Henry Jones came to this town from Sunderland.
Wife—Yes.
Schoolmaster—Well, now, wouldn't it be better to say that he came from Sunderland to this town?
Wife—I don't see any difference in the two expressions.
Schoolmaster—But there is a difference, a rhetorical difference. You don't hear me make use of such awkward expressions. By the way, I have a letter from your father in my pocket.
Wife—But my father is not in your pocket. You'd mean you have in your pocket a letter from my father.
Schoolmaster—There you go with your little quibbles. You take a delight in harassing me. You are always taking up a thread and representing it as a rope.
Wife—Representing it to be rope, you mean.
Schoolmaster—For goodness' sake, be quiet. Never saw such a quarrelsome woman in my life.—London Scraps.

Pretty Slow.
Horace L. Moore was lieutenant colonel of the noted Nineteenth Kansas cavalry. He could lead men for a longer period without rest on a single action of cheerful good humor than any other officer. Though not given to jokes, he was the reputed author of as many astonishing as the great Lincoln.

One time, on the march, he sent an orderly with a message to an officer at some distance. Before the man was out of hearing Moore shouted: "Hey, orderly! Come back here!"

He came galloping back, sitting limply in the saddle.

Moore dropped his voice and, assuming a half confidential manner, inquired, "Orderly, in the course of your life have you ever seen a snail?"

"Yes, sir," was the astonished reply. "You met him, then," replied Moore, "for you'd never overtake one!"—Kansas City Journal.

His Business Ability.
In the Adirondacks lives a man too lazy to work, but evidently of great business ability. One winter when he was sitting around smoking his family came so near starvation that some of his neighbors, who could ill afford to help him, took up a collection and bought for the suffering family a barrel of flour, a barrel of pork and a load of wood. They were not considerate enough to cut the wood, but the business man knew how to manage. He hired some of the neighbors who had not contributed to his donation to cut the wood and paid them with half the pork and half the flour.—Lippincott's.

Not to His Taste.
Proud Mother (to admiring visitor)—Yes, we think that little Harry has prettier hair than any of the other children. Five-year-old Bobby (contemptuously)—Umph! They showed me that color, and I wouldn't take it.—Exchange.

Signs of Improvement.
"So your daughter is improving in her piano playing?"
"Yes," answered Mr. Cumrox. "You enjoy it?"

"No. But it doesn't make me as nervous as it used to."—Washington Star.

Very Formal.
"Could you give dat gent at de gate a small handout, mum?"
"Why doesn't he ask for himself?"
"Oh, it's up to me to do dat. I'm his social secretary."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Peace hath higher tests of manhood than battle ever knew.—Whittier.

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